



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Receives Grant to Start Drug Treatment Court

Waukesha, WIS. – Waukesha County will receive a \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice over three years to establish a court to assist nonviolent drug offenders in a judicially supervised habilitation program.

Since alcohol is the primary drug of abuse locally, the federal grant funds will be used to implement a court dedicated to alcohol matters, specifically repeat drunk drivers. Starting this Fall, the court will integrate substance abuse treatment, sanctions and incentives with case management efforts.

Court programming will be administered by the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC), which was formed in 2002 with support from the executive, legislative and judicial branches to achieve a better understanding of crime and criminal justice problems.

“The CJCC has revolutionized the way that Waukesha County looks at and addresses these societal concerns,” said acting County Executive and County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer. “As a proud member of the council, I am greatly appreciative that the federal government recognized the need for this court in our community and awarded us with financial assistance to implement it.”

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“County Receives Grant to Start Drug Court”, continued...

The goal of the 11-person CJCC is to enhance public safety and promote effective and efficient criminal justice system administration by strategically aligning its membership, which includes County and City of Waukesha elected officials, law enforcement personnel, probation and parole administrators, the Public Defender’s office and the Health and Human Services department.

“I am extremely pleased that Waukesha County has received this opportunity which will greatly assist the CJCC in pursuing one of its main objectives: improving public safety. Repeat drunk drivers represent a substantial risk to all residents of this community. This program has proven to be an effective means to reduce recidivism in other jurisdictions,” said Chief Judge Kathryn Foster (Circuit Court XII).

District Attorney Paul Bucher said, “Alcohol related crashes continue to cause significant problems for law enforcement in Waukesha County, not to mention the heartache and terror it brings to the families involved. While we do a very good job arresting and prosecuting the offenders, it is clear that is not enough. We need to do more to prevent these individuals from coming back into the system. The repeat offender is the most dangerous person on the road, and we must act together to hold that person accountable and protect the community. In order to do that, we must be proactive in our approach. I am willing to look at something new, something innovative that will accomplish both. We simply cannot continue doing things the same old way because the same results are not acceptable.”

Although there are many drug treatment courts in Wisconsin, the CJCC administered court is the first in the state to focus solely on alcohol-based offenses.

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